

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 02792 062153Z
ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6992
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

CONFIDENTIAL BRASILIA 2792

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY) BR, US
SUBJ: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE APRIL 5 BY LARRY ROHTER
REF: USINFO 051625Z APR 78
1. FOLLOWING IS CONGEN RIO COMMENT ON ROHTER ARTICLE.

2. ROHTER ARTICLE CONTAINS SEVERAL DISTORTIONS AND INACCURACIES.
HIS STATEMENT THAT BOAT TRIP "HAS CAUSED PERHAPS THE MOST
COMMENT OF ANY CARTER ACTION DURING HIS TWO-DAY STAY IN BRAZIL"

IS A GROSS OVERSTATEMENT. THE BOAT TRIP WAS, IF COURSE,
REPORTED FULLY IN THE NATIONAL PRESS, AS WES EVERY OTHER ASPECT
OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO BRAZIL. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE
ONLY SUBSEQUENT PRESS COMMENT ON THE BOAT TRIP APPEARED IN
ONE PARAGRAPH IN A BRIEF INSIDE-PAGE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE AND
IN THE APRIL 7 EDITION OF LEFT-OF-CENTER SATIRICAT WEEKLY
PASQUIM, WHICH CARRIED A BRIEF INSIDE COMMENT THAT THE BOAT
TRIP CONSTITUTED A "GAFFE" BECAUSE "NO ONE IN RIO DISRESPECTS
MORE THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF RIO'S CITIZENS THAN SERGIO DOURADO,
THE ATTILA OF THE ECOLOGY." PASQUIM HAS PERIODICALLY PUBLISHED
ARTICLES CRITICAL OF BOTH RIO'S MAYOR AND MR. DOURADO.

3. WITH REGARD TO ROHTER'S STATEMENT THAT THE PRESS HAS
ACCUSED DOURADO OF RECEIVING SPECIAL FAVORS FROM THE MAYOR,
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TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS ACCUSATION WAS MADE ONLY BY PASQUIM.
THERE IS A LONGSTANDING RUMOR HERE THAT DOURADO MAY HAVE SOLD
MAYOR TAMOYO A LUXURY APARTMENT IN A RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED
BUILDING AT A CONCESSIONAL APRICE.
THE MAYOR WEALTHY IN HIS OWN RIGHT, WAS THE SUBJECT OF
INTENSE CRITICISM FROM PASQUIM FOR THE PURCHASE OF THIS
APARTMENT VALUED AT AROUND TWO MILLION DOLLARS.

4. CONGEN RIO HAS NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION CONCERNING MR. DOURADO, WHO IS ONE OF SEVERAL LEADING REAL ESTATE AND CONSTRUCTION TYCOONS IN THIS AREA. AS SUCH, HE HAS OBVIOUSLY CONTRIBUTED POSITIVELY TO THE GROWTH AND ECONOMY OF RIO DE JANEIRO.

5. CONGEN OFFICER AND BRANCH INFORMATION OFFICER DID MEET WITH ROHTER AT HIS REQUEST TO DISCUSS THE BOAT TRIP, ABOUT WHICH HE APPEARED DETERMINED TO WRITE A DEROGATORY ARTICLE.

THESE OFFICERS UNDERSTOOD THAT THEY WERE COMMENTING ON BACKGROUND ONLY AND WERE LIBERALLY MISQUOTED IN THE ROHTER ARTICLE.

THEY DID, HOWEVER, EXPLAIN THAT THE CRUISE WAS ARRANGED BY BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE US PINHEIRO THROUGH THE RIO OFFICE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 30. PINHEIRO INVITED HIS GUESTS DIRECTLY WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE CONGEN, AND IDENTIFY OF BOAT'S OWNER WAS NOT REVEALED UNTIL PARTY MET HIM ON BOARD.

JOHNSON

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